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Sen. Laura Toy honors Westland business owner for 'Women's Entrepreneurship Day'

LANSING – State Sen. Laura M. Toy, R-6th District, welcomed Margaret Harlow of Westland to the state Capitol Thursday for the 2006 Women's Bipartisan Bicameral Entrepreneurship Action Day.

"It is an honor to bestow this award to such a distinguished woman," said Sen. Toy, who serves as co-chair of the event for the Senate. "Margaret Harlow is an upstanding citizen and has given a great deal to her community. Her business, which is in the process of expanding, represents a strong commitment and investment in the city of Westland and its people."

Each female legislator nominated a woman from their district whose business has "enhanced and served" the community.

Nominated by Toy, Harlow owns Harlow Tire & Service in Westland which has been in business for more than 40 years.

"I can remember all of our boyfriends going to Harlow Tires back in the '60s with their suped-up cars," Sen. Toy reminisced. "They'd buy those huge oversized tires."

As Westland's first ATHENA Award winner, Harlow has served her community as president of the Westland Rotary Club and as a member of the Westland Downtown Development Authority.

"Margaret serves as an example of the impact women business owners can have in our community," Sen. Toy said. "As a small business owner myself, I respect Margaret for all that she has done for the community of Westland."

The event centered on a luncheon where each woman was presented the 2006 Women's Bipartisan Bicameral Entrepreneurship Action Day Award.

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Editor's note: A photo of Sen. Toy and Margaret Harlow is available for download on the Senate Majority Photowire at:

http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Toy/Toy.htm